

In the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A nonwoven composite comprising a first fibrous layer in the form of a nonwoven web to which a second fibrous layer is joined by fibre entanglement to form an untreated composite having a first elongation and further comprising at least one textile-treating agent applied to the untreated composite, said textile-treating agent selected from silicones, derivatives of silicones and quaternary ammonium compounds, the treating agent comprising an active-ingredient level of at least 3% by weight of the fibres ~~solids~~ in the untreated composite to form the nonwoven composite having a second elongation greater than the first elongation.
2. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven composite according to claim 1 wherein the nonwoven web comprises at least one of polyester fibers, polyolefin fibers or polyamide fibres.
3. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven composite according to claim 1 wherein the nonwoven web is formed by carding and subsequent needling or by hydroentanglement.
4. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven composite according to claim 1 wherein the nonwoven web is spunbonded material.
5. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven composite according to claim 1 wherein the basis weight of the nonwoven web is in the range of 20 gm^{-2} to 150 gm^{-2} .
6. (Currently Amended) A nonwoven composite according to claim 1 wherein the second fibrous layer is formed from ~~a pulp of~~ cellulosic fibres.

7. (Original) A nonwoven composite according to claim 6 wherein the cellulosic fibres are wood fibres, vegetable fibres or a mixture thereof.
8. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven composite according to claim 7 wherein the vegetable fibres comprise abaca, jute, sisal or a mixture thereof.
9. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven composite according to claim 1 wherein the second fibrous layer is formed by an airlaying process or a wetlaying process.
10. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven composite according to claim 1 wherein the basis weight of the second fibrous layer is in the range of 20 gm^{-2} to 70 gm^{-2} .
11. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven composite according to claim 1 wherein the textile-treating agent comprises at least one of a siloxane polymer, a siloxane copolymer or an organofunctional siloxane.
12. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven composite according to claim 1 wherein the treating agent comprises 3 to 7% by weight of silicone relative to the total dry weight of fibres.
13. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven composite according to claim 1 wherein the treating agent comprises 3.5 to 6.5% by weight of silicone relative to the total dry weight of fibres.
14. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven composite according to claim 1 wherein the treating agent comprises 4 to 5.5% by weight of silicone relative to the total dry weight of fibres.
15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)
17. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven composite according to claim 1, further comprising a moulded body and a decorative facing material, wherein the nonwoven composite is disposed between the moulded body and the decorative facing material to form an article.
18. (Previously Presented) An article according to claim 17, wherein a form layer is disposed between the decorative facing material and the nonwoven composite.
19. (Cancelled)
20. (Cancelled)
21. (New) A treated composite comprising a first nonwoven web fibre entangled to a second nonwoven web to form an untreated composite, and a textile-treating agent applied to the untreated composite to form the treated composite, said textile-treating agent selected from silicones, derivatives of silicones and quaternary ammonium compounds, the treating agent comprising an active-ingredient level of 3% to 4.9% by weight of the fibres of the untreated composite.
22. (New) A composite material comprising a first nonwoven web comprising at least one of polymeric fibers or polymeric filaments and having a basis weight in the range of 20 gm⁻² to 150 gm⁻² to which a second nonwoven web comprising cellulosic fibers and having a basis weight in the range of 20 gm⁻² to 70 gm⁻² is joined by fibre entanglement to form an untreated web material having a first elongation, the composite material further comprising at least one textile-treating agent selected from silicones, derivatives of silicones and quaternary ammonium compounds applied to

Appl. No.: 09/868,880

Response to Office communication dated: 11/25/2003

Attorney Docket: DEXNON/110/PC/US

the untreated web material, the textile-treating agent comprising an active-ingredient level of 3% to 4.9% by weight of the fibers in the untreated web material, the composite material having a second elongation greater than the first elongation.

23. (New) The nonwoven composite according to claim 22, further comprising a molded body and a decorative facing material, wherein the nonwoven composite is disposed between the molded body and the decorative facing material to form an article.
24. (New) The nonwoven composite according to claim 22, wherein the first nonwoven web comprises a carded web, a spunbond web, a wetlaid web or an airlaid web.